

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/702,185

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Callie E. Shosho

Art Unit

1714

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 12/3/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17,21-27,30,32 and 50-57.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No. 2/19/02.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

Callie E. Shosho  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 1714

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Prior to setting forth the reasons for allowance, it is noted that a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/27/03 has been entered.

2. The present claims are allowable over the "closest" prior art Kurabayashi et al. (U.S. 5,700,314) and Takahashi et al. (U.S. 5,624,484) for the following reasons:

Kurabayashi et al. disclose an ink composition comprising anionic dye and anionic high molecular weight substance such as sodium polyacrylate or copolymer obtained from monomers including acrylic acid wherein the ink is printed on a medium over an underprinted fixer fluid, i.e. liquid composition, comprising cationic compound. The anionic dye includes those with sulfonated or carboxylate groups. The cationic compounds include quaternary ammonium salt type compounds.

Alternatively, Takahashi et al. disclose an ink composition comprising anionic dye and anionic polymer substance such as sodium polyacrylate and copolymer obtained from acrylic acid wherein the ink is printed on a medium over an underprinted fixer fluid, i.e. liquid composition, comprising cationic compound. The anionic dye includes those with carboxylate groups. The cationic compounds include quaternary ammonium salt type compounds.

Both Kurabayashi et al. and Takahashi et al. disclose underprinted fixer fluid and disclose that the ink is printed on medium over the underprinted fixer fluid wherein the fixer fluid comprises a cationic polyelectrolyte, namely, quaternary ammonium salt type compound.

However, both Kurabayashi et al. and Takahashi et al. disclose that the cationic polyelectrolyte have molecular weight of 1000 or less. This is in direct contrast to the present claims which now all require that the polyelectrolyte have molecular weight of from 2000 up to 10,000.

Thus, it is clear that Kurabayashi et al. and Takahashi et al., either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the present invention.

Further, applicants' amendment filed 12/3/03 overcome the 35 USC 112, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejections of record.

In light of the above, it is clear that the rejections of record are untenable and so, the present claims are passed to issue.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Callie E. Shosho whose telephone number is 571-272-1123. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (6:30-4:00) Alternate Fridays Off.

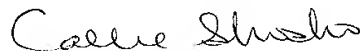
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Callie E. Shosho  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1714

CS  
12/11/03